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**Urban District Council of
Oswaldtwistle**



ANNUAL REPORTS

1970

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Chief Public Health Inspector and

Cleansing Superintendent

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Oswaldtwistle**



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Health Committee

From May, 1970 to April, 1971

Councillor L. SCHOLLES, Chairman

„ J. ASPINALL,
„ Mrs. D. CLEGG
„ C. DANSON
„ W. FINCH, C.C.
„ G. T. GILRANE
„ J. K. HARGREAVES, A.C.C.S.
„ E. F. HILL
„ W. HOLDEN
„ T. LOMAX
„ T. RENSHAW
„ J. STELL
„ D. THOMPSON
„ A. R. STONHAM
„ C. WALSH

Health Department

Medical Officer of Health:

R. C. WEBSTER, T.D., B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.
(until December 11th, 1970).

Chief Public Health Inspector:

B. MAYERS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy to Chief Public Health Inspector:

E. ANDERSON, M.A.P.H.I. (until March, 1970)
D. EDMUNDSON, M.A.P.H.I. (from August, 1970).

Clerk to the Health Department MRS. A. M. BURNETT

TOWN HALL,
OSWALDTWISTLE.

August, 1971.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Oswaldtwistle.**

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of Oswaldtwistle for the year ending 31st December, 1970.

Dr. R. C. Webster, your Medical Officer of Health for nine years retired in December, 1970

The various rates in this report are based upon the Registrar General's estimate of the population for the mid-year 1970.

After showing a rise for each preceding 10 years, the population figure dropped by 10 during 1970. The estimated mid-year population is given as 13,930.

Private development is continuing in several areas of the town however, and these, together with the houses being built by the Council to re-house occupiers of premises in the clearance areas, should ensure that the population at least remains reasonably steady. It will now be interesting to receive the statistics from the Census held in 1971.

The adjusted Death Rate of 14.2 is lower than last year but still remains higher than the rate for the whole country which was 11.7.

There was one death from the late effects of Respiratory Tuberculosis in a man aged over 75 years.

The Birth Rate is lower than last year being 20.6 per 1,000 as compared with 20.9 per 1,000 in 1969. The rate for England and Wales for 1970 is 16.0 per 1,000. This is the seventh year in succession that the birth rate in Oswaldtwistle has exceeded the figure for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 13 per 1,000 births is a decrease of 20 per 1,000 on that for 1969 and the still-birth rate of 8 per 1,000 total births is a decrease of 12.

The national figures for infant mortality and still-births are 18.0 per 1,000 live births and 13.0 per 1,000 total births respectively.

The incidence of infectious diseases was generally low and for the twenty-fifth year in succession no cases of diphtheria were notified.

Sections A and B of the Report deal with Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area and General Provisions of Health Services in the area.

The Report of the Water Supply and Sewage Disposal is discussed in Section C together with the Report of the Sanitary circumstances in the area. The Housing Report is in Section D, Inspection and Supervision of Food in Section E, and the Report on the Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases in Section F.

Appendix 1 gives details of the inspections made under the Factories Act, 1961 and Appendix 2 deals with the Public Cleansing Services.

Thanks must be expressed to the Engineer and Manager of the Calder Water Board for kindly supplying most of the information and statistics for the section dealing with water supplies.

I am sure Dr. Webster would wish me to convey his indebtedness to the Public Health Inspectors and the Clerk of the Health Department for their unfailing help in the year.

Finally, Dr. Webster would wish me to convey his thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Clerk of the Council and other Officials, for their assistance in the work of the Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. M. SAMMON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	4,885
Population (Census, 1961)	11,910
„ (Estimated middle 1970)	13,930
Number of inhabited houses (according to	
Rate Book at the end of 1970	5,338
Rateable Value	£379,434
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,446

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND CHIEF INDUSTRIES IN THE AREA.

The occupations of the inhabitants of the township remain similar to those of previous years, namely, cotton spinning and weaving, chemical manufacturing and the manufacture of bar and shop fittings. Some of the male population find employment in an adjoining area in textile machinery works.

A large part of the area is farmed—mainly dairy farming.

No particular occupation has been noted to have any special influence on the public health.

The population according to the Census of—

1801	was	2710
1851	..	7554
1871	„	10282
1891	„	13296
1911	„	15714
1931	„	14221
1951	„	12133
1961	„	11910

Houses Inhabited

1901	...	3067
1921	...	3676
1951	...	4269
1961	...	4612
1967	...	5170
1968	...	5243
1969	...	5352
1970	...	5338

Houses Uninhabited

1901	...	297
1921	...	40
1951	...	—
1961	...	51
1967	...	22
1968	...	22
1969	...	60
1970	85

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	} Legitimate ... Illegitimate ... Total ...	Total		Birth Rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population ...	
		M.	F.	17.2†	
		227 12 239	109 8 117		
Still Births	2	1	Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) birth (Births) 8	
Deaths	178	90	Death Rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population ... 12.8*	

	Per 1,000 of Population (Adj.)		Infant Mortality Rate	
	Live Birth- rate	Death- rate	Total Rate Per 1,000	Neo-Natal rate per 1,000
			Live Births	Live Births
1968	17.5	15.0	39.0	29.0
1969	20.9	14.5	33.0	29.0
1970	20.6	14.2	13.0	8.0
Increase or decrease in 1970 on previous year	—0.3	—0.3	—20.0	—21.0
England and Wales	16.0	11.7	18.0	12.0

* 1970 Adjusted Death-rate (comparability factor 1.11) = 14.2 per 1,000

† 1970 Adjusted Birth-rate (comparability factor 1.20 = 20.6 per 1,000

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M	F	Total
B6(1) Late Effects of Respiratory T.B.	1	0	1
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	1	0	1
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus ...	1	1	2
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	2	4
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	3	5
B19(5) Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	0	1
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	12	0	12
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	1	2	3
B19(8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	1	1
B19(10) Leukaemia	2	0	2
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms	6	3	9
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	0	2	2
B46(1) Other Endocrine, etc., Diseases	0	2	2
B23 Anaemias	1	2	3
B46(5) Other Diseases of Nervous System ...	1	0	1
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	4	6
B27 Hypertensive Disease	4	1	5
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	18	18	36
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	3	13	16
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	7	15	22
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	5	7
B31 Influenza	0	1	1
B32 Pneumonia	1	7	8
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	8	3	11
B34 Peptic Ulcer	2	0	2
B36 Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	0	1	1
B37 Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0	1
B46(8) Other Diseases of Digestive System ...	1	0	1
B46(9) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	0	1
B42 Congenital Anomalies	4	0	4
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1	4
B48 All Other Accidents	0	2	2
BE49 Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	0	1	1
TOTAL	88	90	178

	M.	F.	Total
Death under one year: Legitimate	3	0	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Deaths under 4 weeks: Legitimate	2	0	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Deaths under 1 week: Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Council:

Medical Officer of Health; R. C. Webster, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.,
D.C.H. Part time Officer. Salary contributed to.
(until Dec., 1970).

Chief Public Health Inspector, B. Mayers, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Whole time officer.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector; E. Anderson, M.A.P.H.I.,
(until 1.3.1970).

D. Edmundson, M.A.P.H.I., (from 24.8.1970).

Whole Time Officers.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Preston, with the exception of sputum examination for Tuberculosis, these being examined at the Chest Clinic, Blackburn Royal Infirmary.

Chemical analysis is carried out when required by the Public Analyst, Burnley.

The following specimens were submitted for examination:—

Milk for Methylene Blue and B. Coli.	124
„ Phosphatase Test	0
„ Brucella Test	237
„ Turbidity Test	0
Water for bacteria	49
„ Chemical Analysis	0

Ambulance Service.

The ambulance service is operated by the Lancashire County Council from Station No. 2, No. 5 Health Division, at Accrington.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) GENERAL NURSING.—Carried out by 2 District Nurses under the Lancashire County Council.

(b) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The nursing of such cases as measles, pneumonia, and puerperal sepsis, is carried out by the District Nurses.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.
Maternity and Child Welfare.

	Situation	Accommod't'n	By whom provid	
Chief Centre	Barnfield, Union Road, Oswaldtwistle.	Ample	Owned by the County Council	Meetings & Consultations every Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Ante-natal Clinic, Tuesday a.m.

OTHER CLINICS.

Day Nurseries		None		
School Clinics	Barnfield, Oswaldtwistle	Eye, Ear and Dent'l & Minor Ailm'ts Clinics	County Council	Polio vaccination and immu- nisations—Monthly by appointment.
Tuberculosis	Chest Clinic, Blackburn Royal Infirm'y		Reg. Hospital Board	
Venereal Diseases	Blackburn Royal Infirm'y	At Out-patients Department	Reg. Hospital Board	Twice a week for males and twice a week for females.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Rishton		County Council	
Chiropody Clinic for the elderly		Barnfield, Oswaldtwistle	5 Sessions weekly, by appointment	

Hospitals.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Tuberculosis | Provided by the Regional Hospital Board. |
| (2) Maternity | None. |
| (3) Children | |
| (4) Infectious Diseases ... | Cases are sent to Blackburn Hospital when difficulty in isolating at home arises. |
| (5) Other Hospitals available for the District:— | |
| Blackburn Royal Infirmary. | |
| Accrington Victoria Hospital. | |
| Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn. | |
| Manchester Royal Infirmary. | |
| Bull Hill, Darwen—Maternity. | |
| Bramley Meade, Whalley—Maternity. | |
| Accrington Municipal Maternity Home. | |

Midwives.

There is one resident midwife, and others residing in adjoining districts cover part of the township. Domiciliary mid-wifery appears to be adequate, although hospital accommodation is limited. This service is under the control of the County Council.

Report
of the
Chief Public Health Inspector

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for consideration my eighth annual report.

Once again I feel progress was made to improve conditions in Oswaldtwistle despite losing the services of the Deputy

Public Health Inspector, Mr. E. Anderson, who left the Authority early in the year for a more senior post with another Authority. We were fortunate, however, to find a replacement in Mr. D. Edmundson who joined the Authority in August from Preston R.D.C. and who quickly adjusted to the work of the Department.

Progress in the implementation of the smoke control programme continued and two orders were confirmed. One became operative on the 1st September, 1970, and the other becomes operative on the 1st July, 1971. The control of domestic smoke in Oswaldtwistle must be considered a priority for a number of years as efforts should be made to retrieve the time lost due to the long delays in starting the programme originally drawn up in 1962.

The work of clearing unfit dwellings continued and by the end of the year the five year programme started in 1966 was virtually complete apart from the re-housing of a number of families in the Brookside Street (No. 1) Compulsory Purchase Order and the Union Road (No. 3) Compulsory Purchase Order and the physical demolition of some of the empty properties which should be completed during 1971.

A Public Inquiry was held in August to consider objections to the Union Road (No. 3) Compulsory Purchase Order and a decision from the Ministry was still awaited at the end of the year.

It was pleasing to see progress being made on the Lancashire County Council Hostel for aged persons which is being built on the site of the Union Road (No. 1) Compulsory Purchase Order. Plans were also prepared for the re-development of the sites of the Union Road No. 2 and 3 Areas as soon as re-housing and demolition is complete.

The Union Road (No. 2) Area was demolished during 1970 and it is hoped that a start can be made on re-developing this site during 1971.

Despite this pleasing progress, the generally poor housing conditions in the older parts of the town will continue to cause concern and the limited programme of clearance between 1971 and 1975 will not show any marked improvement in these conditions. I am still of the opinion that there are a number of properties outside the programme which should be cleared as unfit dwellings as soon as possible.

In view of the proposed slow-down in the rate of clearance some thought was given to an area improvement scheme. Ideas on such a scheme were presented to the Health Committee in

October but no decision on this important aspect of housing had been made by the end of the year. It is hoped that a scheme of area improvement will become a reality, however, to prevent further areas of the town from falling into disrepair and decay. There are still many good terraced houses, in areas suitable for improvement which, with a little imagination, could be brightened up to become most desirable residential areas.

The breaching of the retaining wall at the Warmwithins reservoir in November, referred to in the Water section, could have resulted in serious consequences for the town. Initially there was a possibility of severe flooding from the two lower reservoirs which took the force of water and overflowed but which fortunately were not breached themselves.

The damage and disruption to the water supplies of the town was considerable however, and tribute must be paid to the work done by the Engineer and staff of the Calder Water Board to lessen the risks and inconvenience over a period of two or three months. The Health Department was kept fully informed at all times of the work being done on the water supply by the Calder Water Board.

On the Cleansing Department side a new refuse collection vehicle was delivered in January 1970, to replace one of the older side-loading machines.

Once again 52 weekly collections of household rubbish were made, casual labour being employed over the holiday period. The controlled tip at Duckworth Hall was well maintained as we were fortunate to obtain the services of a skilled operator for the tracked loader. During the year we were able to assist neighbouring authorities by accepting an amount of both household and trade waste. Co-operation between Authorities in the problems of refuse disposal is essential and there would appear to be a need for joint schemes between Local Authorities.

Finally, my thanks are again due to my two Deputy Public Health Inspectors, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Edmundson, Mrs. Burnett who despite the ever increasing work of the Department has managed to keep the office running smoothly, Mr. Ingham, the Cleansing Department Foreman, who supervises the outside staff so ably and to the Cleansing staff who have worked well to maintain what we firmly believe to be an efficient service.

My thanks are also due to my colleagues in other Departments of the Council, to the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor Scholes for his support throughout the year and to all the members of the Health Committee who took such an interest in our work.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

B. MAYERS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The water authority for the District is the Calder Water Board which came into being on the 1st April, 1963.

Water is normally supplied to Oswaldtwistle from the following sources.

1. Jackhouse Reservoir (capacity 58 million gallons) provides approximately 200,000 gallons per day as a low level supply to the district in the vicinity of Union Road.
2. Cocker Cobbs Reservoir (capacity 11 million gallons) provides approximately 400,000 gallons per day as a high level supply to Stanhill, Knuzden and Broadfield. In addition treated water from Jackhouse Reservoir can be pumped at Town Bent to Cocker Cobbs Reservoir should this reservoir be depleted in dry weather.
3. Sharn Hall Treatment Works at Church supplies properties immediately adjacent to the district boundary and this supply can be extended into the district supplied from Jackhouse should this be required.
4. A bulk supply of treated water is taken on the district boundary at Guide from the Fylde Water Board and is pumped to the village of Belthorn.
5. Water is obtained from the Board's Mitchells Reservoir in Accrington via a booster station at Green Haworth to supply the properties in the Cross Edge District.
6. A new service reservoir at Willows Lane, Accrington, was brought into service in 1969 to improve the supplies into Oswaldtwistle.
7. In addition to normal mains extensions for housing development, a 10" main was laid in 1969 in Union Road, to improve the distribution of water into Oswaldtwistle.

* * *

In November the retaining bank at the Warmwithins Reservoir (storage reservoir) was breached and this in turn resulted in quite serious damage to, and disruption of, the supplies from the Cocker Cobs and Jackhouse Reservoirs.

Part of the A677 (Blackburn/Haslingden Road) was washed away and the Cobbs Reservoir in particular was 'scoured' by the rush of water which then passed through the Jackhouse Reservoir and caused flooding in the farm-land below.

The Medical Officer of Health immediately issued a warning by radio, television and the Press to all residents in Oswaldtwistle and parts of Church Urban District advising them to boil all water before use.

Certain areas were without a mains supply for several weeks, water being supplied by mobile tankers. Other areas operated on reduced pressures and a "short term mutual aid supply" was provided to the Knuzden and Stanhill areas from the Fylde Water Board. Initially this was provided through hose pipes but eventually a permanent connection was made between the two supplies. Considerable alterations had to be made with regard to the boundary zones for the various supply areas which caused some inconvenience to the consumers.

The filters at the reservoirs were out of action for some time and to ensure that the water was bacteriologically pure considerably higher doses of chlorine were used which resulted in "taste" problems in the area.

As a result of the accident further improvement work will have to be carried out on the Jackhouse and Cocker Cobbs reservoirs but this will in no way affect the supply position in Oswaldtwistle.

Samples taken during this time were, understandably, unsatisfactory but, apart from these, samples taken by the Department throughout the year have been satisfactory. In addition samples taken by the Calder Water Board have also been satisfactory.

Some of the private supplies still give rise to concern and it should be the aim to eventually supply all dwellings, including the fairly isolated farms and cottages, with mains water.

Separate Services.

6 Grants under Section 96 of the Housing Act, 1964, were paid during 1970 to owners providing themselves with a separate service.

Over the years extra fittings have been installed in many properties on joint supplies and these have put too heavy a burden on the supply pipes which themselves are possibly reduced in diameter due to silting up.

The cost of providing a separate service can be an expensive job however, and the grant payable under Section 96 could perhaps be increased to encourage more owners to take advantage of the scheme.

Water Sampling.

Public Supply — Bacteriological.

	Results		
	No. taken	Satisfactory	Unsatis.
By L.A.	34	28	6

Public Supply — Chemical

	Results		
	No. taken	Satisfactory	Unsatis.
By L.A.	0	0	0

Private Supplies — Bacteriological

	Results		
	No. taken	Satisfactory	Unsatis.
By L.A.	13	5	8
No. of dwelling-houses supplied from public water mains direct to houses			5,271
No. of inhabitants in these houses			13,866

There are no houses supplied from the public water mains by means of standpipes, but it is estimated that there are approximately 94 dwellings on private water supplies, the number of inhabitants of these dwellings being 170.

Rainfall, 1970.

January	5.10	September	4.50
February	5.65	October	6.87
March	3.37	November	8.86
April	5.28	December	2.35
May	0.51		
June	2.27		
July	3.92	Total	53.16
August	4.48		

For comparison, the total rainfall in 1969 was 46.33 inches.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year, Council and private housing development continued and 49 new dwellings were connected to the sewerage system. In addition, 18 dwellings in the Kendal Row area of Belthorn Village were connected to a sewer which was installed under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act.

On the 1st April, 1970, the Mid-Calder and Hyndburn Joint Sewerage Board came into being but the Aspen Valley works continued to be run by the Council up to 31st December, 1970. The new Board have accepted responsibility for the works as from 1st January, 1971.

No progress was made with regard to the provision of a sewer to the Cross Edge area which, together with the Duckworth Hall area, is without a proper sewerage system.

A weekly service for the emptying of pail closets is provided without charge by the Council to the residents in the rural areas and septic tanks are also emptied without charge on request. Four new tanks were installed in 1970 to replace pail closets.

Rivers and Streams.

There are two main streams flowing through the district, the Tinker and Smithy Brooks.

Both these streams are frequently misused due to rubbish being deposited therein and it would seem there is also evidence of industrial pollution on occasions.

Shops Act, 1950.

Shops were inspected under the above Act. There were no contraventions as regards ventilation and temperature or sanitary accommodation.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Two private residential sites are licenced providing accommodation for 35 caravans.

Both these sites are used by travelling salesmen who stay for varying periods of time. There is no doubt that well run sites such as these provide a very useful service.

Both sites are well organised and no complaints at all were received during the year regarding the way they were run.

In addition one licence for a single van was issued.

Once again considerable time was spent in moving itinerant caravan dwellers from open areas in the town. No Local Authority owned sites are available and whilst the owners of the two private sites have helped and co-operated with the Department it has not been possible to accommodate these travellers on licensed sites.

Whilst control must be exercised over itinerant caravans it was felt at times that the nuisance and public health risks caused by two or three caravans stopping for short periods on open land was over-emphasised by a number of people.

The sight of a caravan travelling up the main road was generally sufficient reason for complaints to be received with demands that the caravans be kept moving.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

10 observations were made during the year.

Very little trouble was experienced as a result of industrial pollution apart from the complaints received from the vicinity of a large chemical manufacturing concern. Co-operation between this firm and the Department has been good however, and we have appreciated the help and advice of the Alkali Works Inspector throughout the year.

Smoke Control Areas.

During 1970, two Smoke Control Orders were confirmed, one becoming operative on 1st September, 1970 and the other to become operative on 1st July, 1971.

The No. 1 Order covered 359 dwellings and 543 houses and other buildings were included in the No. 2 Order.

The two Orders covered parts of the West End of Oswaldtwistle and late in the year a survey was started on the remaining buildings in this part of the District. It is hoped to have what will become the No. 3 Order confirmed during the summer of 1971 to become operative in July, 1972.

This third Order will cover 406 buildings and when confirmed a total of 1,308 premises will be controlled by Smoke Control Orders. Progress is now obviously being made to reduce the pollution from domestic chimneys. Approximately one quarter of the houses in the town should be covered by Orders by 1972 but even at this rate of progress it is going to be into the late 1970's before the work will be completed.

Efforts could perhaps be made to increase the tempo of the programme so that all the residents of the town will benefit as quickly as possible from the clearing of domestic smoke pollution.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

82 premises are registered under the Act and 28 of these received one or more general inspections during 1970. A total of 122 visits of all kinds were made to these registered premises.

It is still rather surprising to find that the town is so accident free in this type of occupation. No accidents at all were notified and again we hope this is because there have been no accidents and not because the employers have failed to notify the Department.

Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of Premises	No. of Premises registered during the year	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of inspections of Registered premises
Offices	1	17	6
Retail Shops	0	52	19
Wholesale shops, Warehouses ...	0	3	1
Catering establ. & Canteens ...	1	10	2
Fuel Storage Depots	0	0	0
Number of visits of all kinds to Registered Premises, 122.			

Persons employed in Registered Premises.

Class of Workplace	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	62
Retail Shops	114
Wholesale departments, warehouses	14
Catering establishments	28
Canteens	13
Fuel Storage Depots	0
Total	231

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools within the district.

Schools.

These are adequately dealt with by the School Medical Officer of the Lancashire County Council.

Routine inspection of school children is carried out by the School Medical Officer of Health, and when necessary by the District Medical Officer of Health. The School M.O.H. and District M.O.H. co-operate with regard to school closure in the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. Contacts of infectious disease are excluded from school.

Storage of Petroleum Spirit.

No new licences were issued during 1970. 31 licences were renewed covering the storage of 70,000 gallons of petrol in tanks and 110 gallons in cans.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act.

Three Establishments are licensed under the Act for the boarding of 55 dogs and 100 cats.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964.

10 persons are registered as scrap metal dealers.

Sanitary Inspections during 1969.

No. of premises visited	2,564
No. of visits	2,947
Defects or nuisances discovered	351
Defects or nuisances abated ...	332
No. of notices served:—	
(a) Informal	317
(b) Statutory	16
Interviews held:—	
1. General	254
2. Housing	298
3. Cleansing	286
4. Smoke Control	439

Classification of Visits:

Housing—Public Health Act (Primary Inspections) or Housing Acts	812
„ (Re-inspections)	105
Drainage	86
Factories	28
Dairies	12
Food Hygiene Visits	53
Bakehouses	30
Tips	112
Miscellaneous	132
Shops	43
Offices	23
Rodent Control	34
Smoke Observations	10
Atmospheric Pollution Visits	21
Public Conveniences	61
Civic Amenities Act	23
Food Inspection	6
Public Cleansing Visits	307

Milk Samples	237
Water Samples	47
Ice Cream Shops	44
Water Supplies	81
Conversions of W.W.C's to W.C's	18
Conversions of Pails to W.C's	21
Petroleum Acts	69
Infectious Diseases	44
Caravans	104
Schools	12
Standard Grants	45
Animal Boarding Establishment	10
Noise Nuisances	8
Farms	8
Smoke Control	458
Hawkers	2
Scrap Metal Dealers	4

Nuisances and Defects discovered and Abated:

	Discovered	Abated
Defective roofs	9	6
Eavesgutters	2	6
Defective Ceiling Plaster	11	2
„ Wall Plaster	8	2
„ Drains	3	2
Choked Drains	298	292
Defective Chimneys and flues	0	3
„ W.C's	2	2
„ sinks	0	1
„ window frames	6	3
„ doors	1	0
„ floors	5	0
„ rainwater pipes	1	1
„ walls	1	2
Dampness	15	2
Accumulations	6	2
Abandoned vehicles	7	7
		moved
Noise Nuisances	2	2

Closet Accommodation.

18 waste water closets were converted during 1970. The grant of £15 paid by the Authority would not seem to provide sufficient incentive to owners to have these fittings replaced.

Usually conversion takes place when the waste water closet is hopelessly blocked and irreparable. The operator still spends considerable time on blocked drains, many associated with waste water closets, and the gully emptier is also frequently involved in emptying the shafts of these fittings.

52 collections from pail closets were made during the year and it is pleasing to see that the number of these containers has been reduced quite appreciably during 1970 mainly due to the construction of the Kendal Row sewer.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1970.

No. of pail closets	147
No. of moveable ashbins for refuse	6189
No. of fresh water closets	4509
No. of waste water closets	1214

Conversions.

	During the year 1970
No. of pail closets to fresh water closets	21
No. of waste water closets to fresh water closets	18

Rodent Control — Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

For the first time a full years service was provided by a private servicing company for the control of rodents in private dwellings. Sewer treatments were also carried out by these contractors.

The system worked very well and no persistent complaints of rats or mice were received. All complaints were dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Infestation Treatments.

	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of Properties inspected following notification	220	8
Number infested by: Rats	160	4
Mice	88	4

Sewer Treatments

Number of manholes on system	553
Number of manholes treated	686

North East Lancs. Advisory Committee on Pest Control:

Councillor W. Finch, C.C., Councillor T. Lomax and the Chief Public Health Inspector were the Council's representatives on this Committee.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District.

The necessity for securing the repair or demolition of unfit houses and improving the general standard of housing accommodation throughout the district.

Complete the conversion of waste water closets and pail closets wherever practicable.

Abatement of atmospheric pollution particularly from domestic premises.

Provision of main's water and sewerage to rural areas.

SECTION D—HOUSING

1970 saw the end of a five-year programme which was started in 1966. It is true to say that at that time considerable opposition was voiced to the idea that Oswaldtwistle contained “unfit” houses and at the start there was a feeling that this would be a “paper” programme which would not be fulfilled.

A Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of 37 houses was made in 1966 and the first Public Inquiry which lasted for almost twelve hours, was held early in 1967. Objections have been made to each subsequent Order but gradually the need for clearance has generally been accepted.

Very few objections were raised at the Public Inquiry into the Brookside Street Area which was confirmed in 1970 or into the Union Road (No. 3) Area, an enquiry on which was held in August 1970. A decision on this Order was expected early in 1971.

In the five years the following Orders have been made.

Union Road (No. 1) C.P.O., 1966	37 Properties
Union Road (No. 2) C.P.O., 1968	33 Properties
Brookside Street (No. 1) C.P.O., 1968	82 Properties
Union Road (No. 3) C.P.O., 1969	56 Properties
<hr/>	
Total: 208	
<hr/>	

Approximately 12 of these properties in the Brookside Street and Union Road (No. 3) Areas are still occupied but apart from these, the properties are either demolished or empty and awaiting demolition.

Two further blocks, each containing 5 houses, were included in the original programme but negotiations have been proceeding with a view to the purchase by agreement of these blocks and Compulsory Purchase Orders have not been made.

Whilst it is satisfying to see progress being made with the demolition and redevelopment of these areas, it is disappointing that it has been found necessary to slow down this work over the next five years. The Town still contains a good number of houses which are sub-standard and not worthy of improvement and which should in my opinion, be cleared.

I believe the standard of housing in the older parts of the Town is still poor and whilst improvement of houses, either individually or in areas, must be encouraged, the clearance of unfit dwellings should continue.

Towards the end of the year the first block of six new one-bedroomed flats were let on the "John Street Site", an area which will eventually accommodate approximately 400 mixed dwellings. The ground floor flats are let to the elderly and the first floor flats either to young newly married couples or to couples whose children have grown up and left home. A scheme for warden-assisted accommodation for the elderly will form an early part of the next stage of development on the site. This will be the third such scheme in the District and there is no doubt that they have proved to be a very successful system of housing for aged persons.

A detailed report on the implementation of a General Improvement Area was submitted to the Health Committee late in the year but the matter was deferred for six months. Whilst the number of Standard Improvement Grants approved showed a slight increase on the previous year the general impact on the housing standards of the town was slight. It is pleasing to report that for the first time the Council approved 17 applications for (Discretionary) Improvement Grants. Previously this type of grant had not been available to Oswaldtwistle householders.

Every encouragement should be given to house owners to maintain and improve their properties to a high a standard as as possible. Whilst the Standard Improvement Grant is of considerable help and benefit, it must, in a number of cases, be considered as being of short term benefit. A number of houses in the Compulsory Purchase Orders, on which the Council had paid such grants within recent years, were found to be unfit and were classed as such.

Merely providing basic amenities will not make a house fit. At the same time, such amenities are essential even for houses with a limited life and again encouragement should be given to applicants to take advantage of the grant for houses with a life of less than 15 years.

Housing Statistics for the year 1970.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

	Houses	Flats
(1) By Local Authority	0 ...	6
(2) By other Local Authorities...	0 ...	0
(3) By other persons	30 ...	0
Total No. of dwellings owned by L. Authority		456

I—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

- 1. (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 50
- (b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose 59

2.	Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit in respect of which:	
(a)	Dem., Clear., or Closing Orders have been made ...	143
(b)	No. (or estimated number) of other unfit houses	
(b)	at end of year	309
3.	No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	40

II—Clearance Areas.

1.	No. of dwelling-houses demolished during the year:	
(a)	Unfit houses	24
(b)	Other houses	5
2.	No. of persons displaced	113

III—Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

1.	Houses demolished or closed during year:		
		No. of:-	
		Houses	Persons Displaced
(a)	Housing Act, 1957:		
(i)	Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Sec. 17(i))	3	0
(ii)	Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health and demolished	0	0
(iii)	Unfit houses closed under Sec. 16 (4), 17(1) & 35(1) of the Housing Act, 1957	3	2
(iv)	Unfit houses closed under Sec. 17(3) and 26 of the Housing Act, 1957	0	0
(v)	Parts of Buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ...	0	0
2.	Repairs during the year:		
			No. of houses
(a)	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts		16

- | | |
|--|---|
| (b) Public Health Acts — action after service of formal notice — Houses in which defects were remedied:— | |
| (i) By Owners | 0 |
| (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners... | 0 |
| (c) Housing Act, 1957 — action after service of formal notice (Sections 9 and 16):
Houses made fit:— | |
| (i) By Owners | 0 |
| (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners... | 0 |

IV—Unfit houses in temporary use—Housing Act, 1957:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation under Sect. 48 and Sect. 17(a) | 0 |
| 2. No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 34 or 53) | 0 |

Purchase of Houses by Agreement:

	No. of Houses	No. of Occupiers
Houses in Clearance areas other than those in confirmed orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders	2	6

Rent Act, 1957.

No certificates of Disrepair were issued during the year and no certificates were cancelled.

Standard Grants:—

Applications received	90
Applications approved	85
Works completed	76

Improvement Grants:—

Applications received from private individuals	17
Approved by Local Authority	17
Applications submitted by Local Authority to Ministry	4
Approved by Ministry	4
Work completed:	
1. By private individuals	4
2. By Local Authority	0

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

The regular routine for the sampling of milk which has operated since 1968 continued throughout 1970.

Samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Preston for the Methylene Blue Test and for tests for *Brucella Abortus*.

It is pleasing to report that a further improvement in the results of the methylene blue test on raw milk samples have been noted as follows :—

1968, 48 failures out of 131 samples.

1969, 35 failures out of 179 samples.

1970, 8 failures out of 113 samples.

The incidence of brucella infected raw milk, whilst apparently lower than last year, is still too high however. 9 Culture positive samples were taken and each of these indicated that a considerable number of persons were placed at risk to what can be a very nasty illness.

Co-operation from the farmers in this matter has been generally good. Normally, on receipt of a Milk Ring Test positive result the farmer is advised to contact his Veterinary Officer for advice and to remove the positive animals from the farm. If the Department is satisfied that this is done no further action is taken at that time. If however, a subsequent sample is culture positive a "Pasteurisation Order" under the Milk and Dairies Regulations is served by the Medical Officer of Health.

During 1970 two such Orders were served and these, together with one served in 1969, remained in force at the end of the year.

It is still rather disappointing to find only three Oswald-twistle farms are on the register of accredited herds. One farm was added to the list during 1970.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.), Regulations.

There are 70 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream.

Three of these premises are also registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

Forty-four routine inspections were made in connection with these registered premises.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The following table shows the number of premises on the register at the end of the year:—

Butchers—Manfs. of sausages, etc.	12
Bakehouses	21
Ice-Cream premises	70
Ice Cream Manufacturers	3
104 visits were made to food premises.	

————::————

Number of food premises, by type of business, in district at end of year.

Greengrocers and fruiterers (inc. wet fish, game, etc.)	16
General grocers and provision dealers	62
Fishmongers (inc. poultry, game, etc.)	1
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meat, etc.)	17
Bakers and/or Confectioners	21
Fried Fish Shops	8
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	29
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars, etc.	66
Others	0

Food and Drugs Sampling.

Regular sampling of Food and Drugs was carried out by the County Public Health Inspectors and a total of 123 samples was obtained in the District, comprising 104 milks and 19 other samples as follows:—

- 1 Strawberries, canned
- 1 Tinned Shrimps
- 1 Tinned Pork Luncheon Meat
- 1 Tinned Sliced Ox Tongues
- 1 Puff Pastry, uncooked
- 1 Sponge Cake Mix
- 1 Dairy Ice Cream
- 1 Bubble Gum
- 1 Fruit, canned
- 1 Sandwich Spread
- 1 Gluten Free Bread
- 1 Low Protein Rusks
- 2 Ice Cream
- 1 Pork Sausage
- 1 Habitane Solution
- 1 Soleo Solution
- 1 Ferrous Sulphate Tablets B.P.C.
- 1 Atropine Eye Ointment

I give below details of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:

Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
Strawberries, canned	Contained 0.2 gramme of sandy soil.	Packers informed
Informal Milk	Freezing point indicated 1.0% extraneous water.	Dairy cautioned
Informal Milk	Freezing point indicated 2.3% extraneous water.	Dairy cautioned
Informal Milk	Freezing point indicated 25.4% extraneous water.	Further sample obtained

Dairy Ice Cream	Fat content 7.9%. Sample consisted of ice cream containing "non milk fat". (Butter fat not greater than 0.1%).	Producer cautioned
Informal Milk	Freezing point indicated 0.3% extraneous water.	Dairy cautioned
Ice Cream	Milk Solids not fat 6.7%. Should contain not less than 7.5% Milk solids not fat.	Vendor interviewed and cautioned
Pork Sausage	<div> Lean Meat 27.0% Fat Meat 18.5% <hr/> Total Meat 45.5 Cereal filler, etc. ... 26.5 Added Water 28.0 <hr/> 100.0 <hr/> </div>	Prosecution: Fined £50 Costs £11
Atropine Eye Ointment	The eye ointment conformed to the B.P. 1958 standard.	School Clinic advised to obtain new stock
Informal Milk	Fat content 2.45%. Deficient 13.8% fat and contained 3.8% extraneous water.	Producer cautioned & complainant informed
Informal Milk	Freezing point indicates 7.7% extraneous water.	Dairy cautioned

In addition to the Food and Drugs samples taken by the County Public Health Inspectors, 1 sample of sausage and tomato pie was submitted for bacteriological examination following complaint from a County Council Hostel for mentally handicapped children.

Whilst the pie was bacteriologically sound it was later found, from a Food and Drugs sample referred to above, that the sausage meat was not of the required standard.

Foods condemned :—

Meat	52 lbs.
Canned Meats	6 lbs.

SECTION F.
PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

Four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year.

Diphtheria.

No cases were notified for the twenty-fifth year in succession. Immunisation of children is carried out by the Lancashire County Council at their Barnfield House Clinic.

Enteric (including Paratyphoid) Fever.

One case of paratyphoid fever was notified in 1970.

Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken-pox, etc.

There were 22 cases of measles, and one case of whooping cough notified during the year.

Dysentery.

No cases were notified.

Food Poisoning.

No cases were notified.

Small-pox.

No cases of small-pox occurred during the year, and no action was necessary under the Small-pox Prevention Regulations.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

No cases were notified.

Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations.

No cases of acute pneumonia were notified during the year.

Poliomyelitis.

There were no cases of acute Poliomyelitis (paralytic) notified during the year.

Infective Jaundice.

Two cases were reported during 1970.

SECTION F.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease	Total Under													Total
	cases notified yr.	1— yrs.	2— yrs.	3— yrs.	4— yrs.	5— yrs.	10— yrs.	15— yrs.	20— yrs.	25— yrs.	55— yrs.	75— yrs.		
Scarlet Fever	4	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tuberculosis (Res.) ...	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	
Tuberculosis (other) ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	
Infective Jaundice	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Measles	22	1	2	2	3	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dysentery	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Paratyphoid Fever ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Whooping Cough	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTALS	38	3	4	2	4	8	9	1	1	2	1	2	0	

Prevention of Blindness.

No action necessary during the year.

Cancer.

There were 40 deaths from Cancer during the year.

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952.

During 1970, eight cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

There was one death from the late effects of Tuberculosis during the year.

At the end of the year the number of cases remaining on the register was as follows:—

Total Cases	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
10	4	3	7	0	3	3

APPENDIX I.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Premises	No. on Reg.	Inspections	Written Notices
(i)	Factories under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6	7	2	0
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	84	23	4
(iii)	Other Premises	4	3	1
Total ...		95	28	5

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Sanitary Conveniences :—

	Particulars	Found	Remedied
(a)	Insufficient	2	2
(b)	Unsuitable or defective	2	2
(c)	Not separate for the sexes	1	1
Totals ...		5	5

4. Outwork. Sections 133 and 134.

No. of Outworkers Nil

APPENDIX II.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION & STREET CLEANSING 1st April, 1969 to 31st March, 1970

Public Cleansing.

The Public Health Department is responsible for the collection and disposal of household refuse and also collects and disposes of certain trade refuse.

A weekly service is provided for the emptying of all dustbins and, in addition, the weekly emptying of pail closets from areas of the District where sewers are not available.

Street scavenging, gully emptying and the cleansing and maintenance, of the four public conveniences within the District are also included in the Public Cleansing Services.

The vehicles in use are as follows:—

Two Dennis/Shefflex "fore and aft" refuse collection vehicles.

One Shelvoke and Drewery refuse collection vehicle.

One Karrier/Dennis Gully/Cesspool emptier.

One Lewin mechanical street-sweeper.

One Massey-Ferguson Wheeled Tractor.

One Austin A35 van.

One International Harvester 125 tracked machine for use on the tip.

Towards the end of the year it was found necessary to take the A35 Van off the road because of its condition and a replacement for this vehicle was ordered.

Collection of Refuse.

The Department once again completed 52 collections of household rubbish during 1970.

Normal collections were made during the two week annual holiday period and this service was much appreciated by the many residents who now take their holidays at times other than these recognised weeks. Members of the staff wishing to take their holidays at this time were allowed to do so and casual labour was employed to fill the gap.

During 1970 further trade refuse collections were undertaken and this too is a service much appreciated by the small businesses in the Town. Extra collections for which charges are made are provided for many of the shops and a number of the factories, and were maintained for 52 weeks on request.

It is still disappointing to find so much indiscriminate dumping of unwanted articles such as beds, mattresses and three-piece suites deposited on open pieces of land, despite the well publicised free collection service provided. Normally requests to move mattresses etc., are dealt with within 24-48 hours and all such work is usually cleared by each Saturday lunchtime.

A notice drawing householders attention to this service is delivered with each new dustbin provided under the Municipal Bin Scheme and as over 2,500 such bins are now in use at least half the householders in the town have had personal notification.

It would seem that some persons must put themselves to considerable inconvenience to take unwanted furniture to open land before they will telephone, call at, or write to the office.

Fortunately no undue difficulties have been experienced with abandoned vehicles. 7 such cars have been removed by a local scrap merchant without charge at the request of the Department.

Refuse Disposal.

After a full year's operation the Tip at Duckworth Hall has proved to be an ideal site for the disposal of refuse.

Work has been necessary in providing a fairly large drain to divert surface water which was entering onto the tip. Moveable wire netting screens have also been provided to prevent nuisance from paper being blown about. The tip generally has been well controlled by the International Harvester 125 purchased prior to the opening of the site. There have been no fires and very few signs of rodent infestation.

Towards the end of the year a new baling press/garage was erected at the tip entrance but baling of waste paper in this building had not started at the end of the year.

Initially it was anticipated that the site would last for 10 years but the quantity of refuse accepted at the tip has increased so much that after one year's operation it would seem that at the present rate this particular area will be filled and reclaimed in a much shorter time.

A careful watch will have to be kept on the quantities of trade waste accepted at the site. It is hoped to be able to find an economical rate of fill and to evenly balance the quantities of trade and household refuse with acceptable covering materials. Additional covering materials are available on the site however and can be excavated with the tracked loading shovel.

Municipal Bin Scheme.

1970 was the fourth year of the scheme and during the year 559 bins were issued without charge. In addition, 12 extra bins were sold.

Since the scheme started 2,825 bins have been distributed as follows :—

1967	856
1968	732
1969	678
1970	559

3¼ cu. ft. capacity plastic bins have been used since the scheme started which now means that over half the dwellings in the town are equipped with this kind of container.

With the extension of the smoke control areas and the still increasing use of disposable containers and packages, these lighter but larger capacity bins have helped considerably to cut down on the extra boxes and the like previously used as “overflow” containers at dwellings.

Salvage.

The quantity of paper baled and sold remained fairly steady throughout 1970 as compared with the previous year.

Whilst no sorting of refuse is carried out, all clean paper and cardboard left by householders and shopkeepers is collected and sold. It is doubtful whether a profit could be made out of these salvaged materials but the operation is looked upon as a reasonably cheap and very convenient method of disposing of a waste product which has to be collected in any case. Paper in particular can cause a serious nuisance when tipped and efforts are made to keep as much off the tip as possible.

Apart from these advantages, a bonus scheme, payable twice a year, is operated whereby the cleansing staff benefit from the sales of paper, rags and metals.

Just over £860 was shared between the men during 1970.

Salvage Comparisons.

		1962/63	1969/70	1970/71
Paper:	Wt.	58 tons	194 tons	189 tons
	Value	£340	£1754	£1778
Metal:	Wt.	1½ tons	13 tons	20 tons
	Value	£35	£190	£231
Rags:	Wt.	1¼ tons	3½ tons	5½ tons
	Value	£24	£86	£134
TOTAL VALUE:		£399	£2030	£2143

Street Cleansing and Gully Emptying.

The gully emptying and street cleansing services operated reasonably well during the year although at times it was necessary to use the drivers of these machines on refuse collection when other drivers were absent.

Even so, complaints of blocked gullies were dealt with within 24 hours and every effort was made to keep the streets reasonably clean. Unfortunately at times the quantity of litter deposited in the streets led to some complaints and despite providing extra litter bins and making an appeal through the schools, clubs, factories, etc., this appeared to be one problem which has not yet been solved

It seems an almost impossible task to convince people that littering the streets is a dirty and unnecessary habit and that the cost of clearing up their litter is an expensive business.

The following shows the mileage of the roads and streets which are cleansed by the Health Department :—

Blackburn Road (A679)	1.96 miles
Haslingden Old Road (A677)	4.22 miles
Union Road and New Lane (B6231)	2.55 miles
Stanhill and Stanhill Lane (B6234)	1.70 miles
Class III Roads, No. 1 and 3	2.40 miles
Public Streets	15.98 miles
	<hr/>
	28.81 miles
	<hr/>

